

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 EB-03 EUR-10 PM-03 DODE-00 SPC-01

DRC-01 /066 W

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R 280900Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0894

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4103

LIMDIS

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, VN

SUBJ: JAPAN-DRV RELATIONS

REF: A. TOKYO 1295

B. TOKYO 3961 (AND PREVIOUS)

C. TOKYO 3034 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN EFFORT TO BREAK DEADLOCK IN DRV-GOJ VIENTIANE

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TALKS, JAPANESE MADE AID OFFER WHICH THEY BELIEVE DRV IS

CONSIDERING. FOR FIRST TIME DRV MADE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL ON "GESTURE" DESIRED FROM JAPANESE REGARDING PRG. DRV SOUGHT AGREEMENT FOR PRG TO OPEN INFO OFFICE IN TOKYO THEN FELL BACK TO POSITION THAT GOJ SHOULD ADMIT TRAVELERS USING PRG PASSPORTS. JAPANESE REJECTED BOTH PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF FIRST SEA ASIA DIV HEAD HANABUSA PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH FOLLOWING STATUS REPORT ON PERIODIC DRV-GOJ TALKS IN VIENTIANE. HANABUSA SAID JAPANESE IN MOST RECENT MEETING MARCH 15 MADE OFFER "IN CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT" TO BREAK DEADLOCK IN RELATIONS. JAPANESE SUGGESTED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD QUIT TALK OF REPARATIONS AND OFFERED 5 BILLION YEN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (APPROXIMATELY \$18 MILLION) WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED RAPIDLY FOR DRV USE (IN FACT AMOUNT WAS PROVIDED IN JFY 73 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET). DRV COUNTERED BY REQUESTING ASSISTANCE TOTALLING THREE TIMES AMOUNT OF REPARATIONS PAID GVN (\$39 M), OR ROUGHLY \$117M. HANABUSA SAID 5 BILLION YEN (\$18 M) WAS PROBABLY TOO LOW BUT \$177 M FIGURE WAS OUT OF QUESTION. FIGURE APPROACHING GVN REPARATIONS FIGURE WAS CONCEIVABLE. FINAL TOTAL TO WHICH GOJ MIGHT BE AGREEABLE WOULD ALSO DEPEND IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE ON WHETHER DRV WAS SPEAKING OF GRANT AID OR CREDITS. HANOI REPS DID NOT MAKE CLEAR WHICH THEY MEANT DURING MARCH 15 MEETING. HANABUSA ASSUMES THAT HANOI INSANXIOUS TO OBTAIN AID COMMITMENTS WHICH IT CAN USE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEXT FIVE YEAR PLAN TO START IN 1976. HE NOTED THAT GOJ ASSISTANCE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. SINCE FUNDS HANOI SEEKS ARE CONSIDERABLE, GOJ HOPES TO INDUCE HANOI TO AGREE TO INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM AS ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN LARGE AMOUNTS DESIRED. HE REGARDS INDICATION THAT HANOI WILLING TO NEGOTIATE AID FIGURE UNDER RUBRIC OTHER THAN "REPARATIONS" AS SIGN DRV MAY HAVE SOFTENED POSITION ON ISSUE.

2. DURING MARCH 15 MEETING DRV MADE EXPLICIT FOR FIRST TIME WHAT IT MEANT BY "POSITIVE GESTURE" TOWARD PRG, WHICH IT HAS REPEATEDLY MENTIONED AS REQUIREMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT IN DRV-JAPANESE RELATIONS. DRV REP SAID GOJ SHOULD PERMIT PRG TO ESTABLISH INFORMATION OFFICE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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TOKYO. JAPANESE REJECTED THIS OUT OF HAND. NORTH VIETNAMESE THEN FELL BACK QUICKLY TO POSITION THAT GOJ SHOULD TAKE INTERIM STEP SUCH AS RECOGNIZING PRG PASSPORTS AS VALID FOR ENTRY INTO JAPAN. HANABUSA INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT GOJ SHOULD OFFICIALLY ACCEPT PRG PASSPORTS BY INSCRIBING GOJ VISAS WITHIN THEM. JAPANESE REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL ALSO SINCE GOJ LEGALLY AFFIXES VASA ONLY IN PASSPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS WHICH IT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZES.

3. HANABUSA BELIEVES DRV RECOGNIZES THAT ITS POLICY OF INSISTING ON "RECOGNITION" OF PRG BY WEST EUROPEANS AND JAPAN HAS FAILED, AND THAT HANOI IS SOFTENING ITS STAND. HE IS HOPEFUL ADMISSION OF PRG ATHELETES TO ASIAN GAMES IN YOKOHAMA APRIL 2-15, BY ISSUING SEPARATE ENTRY PERMITS AND NOT REQUIRING PRG TEAM TO TRAVEL ON DRV PASSPORTS, WILL BE INTERPRETED BY HANOI AS "GESTURE" TO PRG. HANABUSA REITERATED THAT ENTRY INTO JAPAN THROUGH THIS METHOID IN NO WAY IMPLIED GOJ OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF PRG. NEVERTHELESS, HE HOPES IT WILL HELP BREAK IMPASSE IN DRV-JAPANESE RELATIONS, WITHOUT COMPROMISING EITHER JAPANESE LAW OR BASIC PRINCIPLES. HANABUSA SAID MARCH 15 SESSION ENDED WITH DRV APPARENTLY PLANNING TO STUDY GOJ ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS. THUS, HE THINKS IMPASSE MAY BE IN PROCESS OF BEING BROKEN.

4. COMMENT: GOJ OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO FIND WAY THROUGH HANOI'S CONDITIONS TO REALIZE NORMALIZED RELATIONS. CURRENT POSITION REPRESENTS SLIGHT SHIFT: HERETOFORE, GOJ REQUIRED PRG REPS TO ENTER JAPAN ON DRV PASSPORTS. GOJ IS NOW WILLING TO IGNORE THEIR PASSPORTS, WHICH PUTS PRG IN SAME CATEGORY AS OTHER UNRECOGNIZED GROUPS (LPF, GRUNK, PLO) WHOSE REPS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED ENTRY INTO JAPAN FOR SPECIAL AND LIMITED PURPOSES.  
SHOESMITH

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